

In the claims:

Please delete existing claims 1-33.

Please add the following set of claims:

1. A lid assembly for creating a pressure differential within a container, the lid assembly comprising:

- (a) a seat-portion for sealing connection to the container;
- (b) a pump configuration associated with said seat-portion; and
- (c) a rotatable actuating element mechanically associated with said pump configuration such that at least a portion of said actuating element substantially circumscribes at least a portion of said pump configuration, said rotatable actuating element configured with a pumping element actuated in a reciprocating linear motion to pump gas through said pump configuration, such that continuous rotation of said actuating element in a given rotational direction rotates both said rotatable actuating element and said pumping element and generates said reciprocating linear motion of said pumping element and said rotatable actuating element, thereby pumping gas through said pump configuration to generate the pressure differential;

wherein one of said pump configuration and said actuating element includes a longitudinally-wave-like groove, and the other of said pump configuration and said actuating element includes at least one pump activation pin configured to engage said wave-like groove, such that during said continuous rotation said activation pin contacts an edge of said longitudinally-wave-like groove, thereby generating said reciprocating linear motion.

2. The lid assembly of claim 1, wherein said pump configuration includes a pump cylinder configured to accept said pumping element, a substantially cylindrical outer surface of said pump cylinder is a circumferential wall configured with said groove circumscribing said wall so as to form a single continuous groove; and said actuating element includes said at least one pump activation pin.

3. The lid assembly of claim 1, further including a contents-dispensing mechanism for removing non-gaseous contents from the container while maintaining said pressure differential.

4. The lid assembly of claim 3, wherein said contents-dispensing mechanism includes a rotatable dispensing element deployed in said seat-portion, said dispensing element configured with a contents receptacle, and said dispensing element rotatable such that said contents receptacle is alternately alignable with a contents inlet, opening into said interior volume, and a contents outlet, opening to said exterior atmosphere, said contents inlet and said contents outlet being spaced apart such that as said contents receptacle alternates between said contents inlet and said contents outlet said contents receptacle passes through a region in which fluid communication between said contents receptacle and one of said contents inlet and said contents outlet is fully interrupted before fluid communication is established with an other of contents inlet and said contents outlet.

5. The lid assembly of claim 1, further including a ratchet mechanism to limit rotation of said actuating element to said given rotational direction.

6. The lid assembly of claim 1, further including a pressure differential indicator.

7. The lid assembly of claim 6, wherein said pressure differential indicator is configured as a passage with at least one opening to said interior volume of the container and at least one opening to said exterior atmosphere,

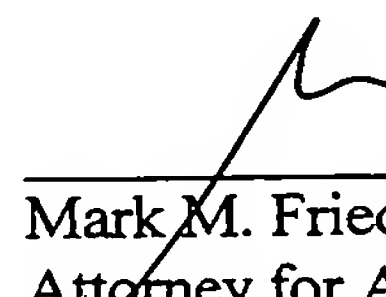
said opening to said exterior atmosphere being closed by a pressure differential indicating element that is displaceable between two different states so as to indicate pressure differential and non-pressure differential states within said interior of the container.

8. The lid assembly of claim 7, wherein said pressure differential indicating element is configured from resilient material biased to a first state, so as to indicate said non-pressure differential state, and displaceable to a second state, so as to indicate said pressure differential state.

9. The lid assembly of claim 1, wherein said pump configuration includes at least one one-way inlet valve and at least one one-way outlet valve.

10. The lid assembly of claim 9, further including a filter element associated with said one one-way inlet valve.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark M. Friedman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,883

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